



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 7, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Deirdre Kvale, Michelle Jerde, Jahn Dyvik, and Tom Skjaret

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Fire Chief: James Van Eyll; City Attorney: John Thames; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS - LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES

Mayor Miner stated that he hoped everyone had happy holidays, and offered the following comments and updates:

In a work session prior to the regular meeting, the City Council heard a presentation by Stacie Kvilvang of Ehlers, Inc. on Tax Increment Financing (TIF), including relevant examples of how TIF could apply to potential redevelopment project scenarios. Kvilvang will be providing further guidance on whether TIF may be applicable to pending projects. Council also held some initial discussion of the status of fire service contract negotiations with Orono.

He also wished everyone a happy new year.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Jerde, seconded by Skjaret, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of December 17, 2019 City Council Meeting
- B. Receive Unofficial Draft Minutes of December 10, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Establish Wednesday, April 15, 2020 From 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm as the Date and Time for the 2020 Open Book Meeting
- E. Accept the Resignation of Firefighter Cameron Riddle From the Long Lake Fire Department
- F. Reappoint, Appoint and Promote, and Appoint Candidates to Long Lake Fire Department Officer and Coordinator Positions

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Jerde, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Council member Skjaret commented that it was nice to see new Finance/Utilities Officer Amanda Nowezki stepping right up and taking care of the Council's "approve claims and payroll" item already.

Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one appeared to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Wayzata Police Activity Update – Presentation by Mike Risvold, Police Chief

Police Chief Risvold provided a presentation highlighting a review of Police activity statistics for the period of 2013 through 2019, including heinous Part 1 crimes, gross misdemeanor Part 2 crimes, thefts and burglaries. The number of citations and warnings increased substantially over the previous year largely due to enforcement activities in and around the Wayzata Boulevard W construction zone. Outside of citations, he reported that Police activity statistics by category remain close in number to the previous year's activities. He also reviewed changes in staffing particularly over the years 2016 to 2019, commenting that it was impressive the number of total Police activities had continued to increase during a period when the Department was short on staff.

He explained that in addition to perceiving there is more traffic in town than recent years, the intent of the increased number of Police stops on Wayzata Boulevard W was focused on training people to obey the 30 mph speed limit on the roadway.

Chief Risvold responded to Mayor and Council questions regarding any observed trends in burglaries and auto thefts; advised Council that Liquor Barn had recently failed an alcohol compliance check; discussed his efforts to reach out to Hennepin County and request additional speed limit signage for both the CR 112 corridor as well as on Brown Road (CR 146) in the vicinity of the Long Lake Assisted Living; informed Council that Hennepin County will be installing no parking signage along CR 112 in the area of Old Long Lake Road; highlighted Police officer participation in Night to Unite and the Turkeys on the Luce community events; encouraged use of 911 by any individual who wants to talk to an officer for any reason, explaining that doing so helps populate their Department's reporting software; and clarified that the Police Department's eblasts have been less frequent due to focusing eblasts on crime alerts, and due to Wayzata's Communications Director recently leaving employment. Chief Risvold welcomed feedback or further questions regarding the Department's operations.

Dan MacDonald, 335 Russell Lane, commented that he had contacted Wayzata Police on a couple occasions and their service was great.

Mayor Miner recalled that Chief Risvold had made a crime prevention presentation before the Chamber of Commerce at their meeting in August. He noted that the Department is doing a great job and he hears a lot of comments about the Police presence on Wayzata Boulevard W.

Chief Risvold offered a suggestion for a potential location to consider installing additional speed feedback signage in the corridor.

Council commented on the need for traffic to obey speed limits, and Mayor Miner added that a speed study is anticipated to take place in the year ahead.

Discuss Potential Partnerships with Surrounding Fire Departments

Mayor Miner reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Northwest Hennepin League of Municipalities (NWHLM), an organization primarily comprised of Mayors of west Hennepin County cities that meets once a month to discuss issues that impact communities. Fire departments are having issues with recruitment as volunteerism has changed and fewer people are choosing to be firefighters. The NWHLM had met in December and had discussions with representatives of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal's office, and the pension director from the State Auditor's office. Significant discussion was held regarding the number of fire departments in Minnesota as the state does not think the current model of departments is sustainable, particularly impacting volunteer departments. Of the 782 fire departments across Minnesota, the majority are paid volunteer and the Assistant Commissioner, Bruce West, indicated there may need to be some consolidation of departments in future. In the end, the NWHLM discussed ways to partner more with cities working together. He noted that in Minnesota, there are more fire departments rather than fire districts. Fire districts are common in other states and have levying authority to tax, similar to a school district. Levying authority for fire districts is not currently allowed under Minnesota state statute, though there may be a little "wiggle room" in statute that may allow for two departments coming together to potentially tax. The State Fire Marshal's office has fire district levying authority on their legislative priority list, which would allow for cities to come together and create departments serving multiple cities. The NWHLM will be meeting again the following night, and as a group, they are asking the respective Councils they represent whether they would be open to discussion of potential mergers of fire departments. The organization would like to lobby for the ability to have special taxing authority for fire districts as well. Medina's Council did discuss the subject at their last meeting, and their Council did give support to their Mayor to continue discussions further and try to look at whether there may be an option for their city to explore consolidation of departments.

Fire Chief Van Eyll commented that there has been quite a bit of study and talk across the state about sharing resources and consolidating departments. Long Lake Fire had completed a study that resulted in a finding recommending sharing a training officer among departments, however no further action had been taken on the recommendation. Van Eyll confirmed that there are some departments that have a joint powers agreement between multiple cities that allows for special taxing authority. He discussed current resource sharing of vehicles and equipment between departments in the area, noting that if fire service transitioned to a more regional approach, there would be increased opportunity to set up duty crews to respond to daytime calls where departments are currently seeing a lot of short staffing.

Mayor Miner stated that Medina is likely to apply for a grant from the state to help guide them towards what their future may be, as they have outdated facilities and are served by four different departments including Long Lake Fire. Medina is exploring options and is an example of a city that is at the heart of the matter.

Van Eyll discussed recent similar studies that have been conducted by Corcoran and other area departments, particularly those on the outer rings of the 494 corridor. He noted that Medina was involved with two other studies between Hamel and Loretto departments as well.

Mayor Miner indicated that related to this issue, as Council began briefly discussing during the work session, fire service contact negotiations with Orono have paused a bit. It's uncertain what direction Orono will go, but Long Lake hopes to continue to provide fire service to them. Ultimately Mayor Miner stated that he is more or less looking for direction or feedback regarding conversations with surrounding communities to explore whether there is any possibility of merging or sharing resources. Though Long Lake Fire has been providing service since 1915 and Long Lake wants to keep that going, the City also has to be mindful of the future.

Council member reflected that there has to be change if the model in use today can't be maintained. He commented on the concept of duty crews backed up by paid on call firefighters.

Van Eyll reported that the Fire Advisory Committee had discussed trying to start a part-time duty crew in the summer. He commented on how doing so would improve response times and efficiency, and though Fire Advisory needs to begin discussing again for 2020, his thought would be to try a part-time duty crew for the period of June through August during their busiest time of year. Van Eyll noted that while they used to do individual station pages during the day for calls, they now page as all calls to make sure there are adequate personnel responding to handle situations during the day.

Mayor Miner referred to the draft letter he'd prepared to Orono's Mayor and Council members distributed to Council as a bench handout, and questioned whether Council would have any opposition to sending the letter. He indicated a desire to remain open and conciliatory, but also to keep dialogue with other communities open though some statewide changes need to be made as well.

No opposition was expressed and Council members were supportive.

Council and staff continued to discuss how a taxing authority change could look.

Van Eyll also clarified the area of Medina which is currently serviced by the Long Lake Fire Department.

2020 City Appointments

Moeller had provided an overview in Council member meeting packets of the list of appointments to be made for the coming year. Mayor and Council members discussed the varying positions to be filled, their availability to attend meetings, and agreed upon the appointments to be made for 2020.

Prior to actioning upon the annual appointments, City Clerk Moeller noted that staff had solicited applications for two open Park Board terms, and two applications have been received for the two seats. She had intended to discuss the status of Park Board applications during Other Business and to seek Council's permission to simply appoint the two applicants to the two seats under the next Council meeting's Consent Agenda without requiring a formal interview; however, by coincidence, the two applicants – Gina and Thomas Joyce - were both in attendance at the Council meeting in progress. She asked if Council would like an opportunity to meet the applicants, and Council members invited them to speak.

Gina Joyce, 1200 W Wayzata Boulevard, introduced herself and her spouse. They had purchased Kurt Kaminski's home, moved to Long Lake in August, and love being residents of the community. Both Thomas and Gina shared a bit about their backgrounds and stated their enthusiasm for the opportunity to get involved in their community and be part of a board.

Mayor and Council thanked the Joyces for their interest and were supportive of addressing their appointment as a Consent Agenda item during their next meeting.

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Dyvik, to adopt the City of Long Lake 2020 Appointments Worksheet, including the following appointments:

- *Council member Dyvik to the position of Mayor Pro-Tempore;*

- *Mayor Miner and Council member Dyvik to the Fire Advisory Committee, and Council member Skjaret as alternate;*
- *Council member Jerde as the Park Board Liaison;*
- *Council member Skjaret as the Planning Commission Liaison;*
- *Council member Kvale as the Chamber of Commerce Liaison;*
- *Council member Dyvik as the Long Lake Waters Association Liaison;*
- *Council member Kvale to the Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission;*
- *Mayor Miner to the Highway 12 Safety Coalition; and*
- *Mayor Miner as the Wayzata Crime Prevention Coalition Liaison.*

Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Holbrook Park Rink Attendant Hiring – Council member Kvale questioned the status of hiring rink attendants to staff the Holbrook Park warming house. Moeller confirmed that as of earlier in the day, she was in receipt of three applications from candidates and will be working on addressing pre-employment background checks with intent to hire applicants and staff the facility as soon as possible.

Long Lake Rowing Crew Meeting – Mayor Miner sought an update regarding the Long Lake Rowing Crew's meeting invitation sent to Summit Park neighbors. Moeller reviewed the background of the Long Lake Rowing Crew's proposal to construct a permanent boathouse facility at Orono's Summit Park, and explained that the current limits on the LLRC's hours of operation are a result of the conditional use permit land use control process which allows them to operate by special permit out of a site located in Long Lake. Should they move to a site physically located in Orono, the City of Long Lake no longer would have jurisdiction over the LLRC's permitting or operations, and their conditional use permit and the conditions it contains would no longer apply. Council member Dyvik had informed staff that a resident received a letter addressed to Summit Park neighbors inviting them to a meeting with the LLRC to be held at the fire station on January 8. Moeller confirmed that this was not a public meeting in partnership with an Orono board or commission, but rather an initiative undertaken by the LLRC. In fact, Orono had not seen the letter that had been sent until she had forwarded it to their staff. Though not a public meeting appropriate to share on the City's communications methods, she noted Council may wish to be aware of the meeting should they hear from residents. Council member Dyvik commented that he would be sending a message to LLRC President Rob Burrell to communicate that the LLRC's proposal is of broader concern than to Summit Park neighbors, and to ask that meetings be broader and more inclusive of the community. He reflected that the LLRC had previously stated their desire to be open in their communication and to be good neighbors.

Carp Harvest Feasibility – Council member Skjaret questioned whether there had been any thought of conducting a carp harvest on Long Lake this winter. Council member Dyvik indicated that was a good question, noting that he believed the Long Lake Waters Association had received grant money that could be used for a carp harvest. Council member Dyvik stated he would follow

up with Cassy Ordway the following day. Fire Chief Van Eyll noted that Public Works Director Diercks had mentioned he'd recently measured lake ice at 12 inches.

Appreciation to Public Works – Council member Skjaret thanked both Long Lake and Orono Public Works crews for doing a great job clearing the trails of snow this year.

Next Meeting Agenda – Moeller reported that the Council's next regular meeting agenda would include consideration of approving a Final Plat and Development Agreement for the Zvago cooperative living project.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk